The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1423 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1938 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer — VOL. 25, NO. 30

Poverty produces so much inability to resist evil, both natural and moral.—Dr. Johnson.

Masses Are Deprived of Necessary Medical Services, Green Declares

"Preventable Illnesses and Deaths Are a Sad Commentary When Scientific Knowledge and Medical Skill and Facilities Are To Be Had, But Are Barred To Practically 92 Per Cent of All Families by Low Incomes," American Federation of Labor President Tells National Health Conference.

Urges Extension of Public Health Service Work, Large Increase in Hospital Construction, Expansion of Maternal and Child Health Services, and Extension of Workmen's Compensation to Include Compensation For Loss of Time and Hospital and Medical Services For Workers and Their Families During Sickness.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The urgent necessity for a thoroughgoing program to bring the benefits of efficient and adequate medical care to the vast masses of persons in the United States whose small remuneration for the services they render in the present industrial system makes it impossible for them to pay current prices for such attention for themselves and their dependents featured the address of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, delivered before the National Conference at the Mayflower Hotel here.

Pointing out that the cost of good medical care is a luxury far beyond the ability of the 87 per cent of families with incomes under $3,000, and that families whose income is less than $1,000 must rely upon public services to safeguard their health, Mr. Green discussed the present and future activities of the Public Health Service, more hospitals, extension of maternal and child hospitals, and an enlargement of workmen's compensation to include compensation for workers' families for time lost and for hospital and medical attention during sickness.

The following is the text of Mr. Green's address:

"Good health is necessary for the individual and it of primary concern to the community. Good health constitutes the basis for life and living. Health conditions the degree in which the individual can live, act and serve effectively. Health, in turn, depends upon heredity, knowledge of diseases and their treatment, the availability of medical care, and the ability of the individual to secure adequate medical care. Physical heredity may be improved by knowledge of disease and medical care. Knowledge is our social heritage to which individuals in the past and present contribute. We in the labor movement know that the key to sharing the benefits of such progress is largely conditioned by our incomes.

IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL

"Two epoch-making surveys—one of the High Costs of Medical Care and the more recent National Health Survey of the United States Public Health Service—supply us the essential facts for understanding national health problems, but there remains the equally important responsibility of formulating plans and a sound public policy. Labor welcomes this conference as an initial step in considering a national program.

"There can be no difference of opinion with regard to the social desirability of securing adequate medical care for all and to provide health and vigor of mind and body for all within our political responsibility. There are involved in the task of providing adequate medical care for all these problems: How shall we do it and how can it be paid for? Our plans must be guided by democratic principles so that we may promote general welfare without infringing upon the rights of any group.

LOW INCOME GROUPS BARRED FROM MEDICAL FACILITIES

"Medical services come within the scope of national economy and they must be paid for. The problem is therefore economic. The available data show that the number of days of illness per individual increases in proportion as income decrease and that the medical services decrease despite the increase in sickness.

"The medical profession is troubled by its inability to give services freely where needed. Preventable illnesses and deaths are a sad commentary when scientific knowledge and medical skill and facilities are to be had—but are barred to practically 92 per cent of all families by low incomes.

"The number of hospitals, their facilities, location and medical supplies does not conform to human needs. This, too, has been controlled by ability of the community to pay, consequently there has been concentration in centers of wealth.

"The majority of persons are not wealthy and these have the greatest number of ailments. Major sickness is the low income family results in bankruptcy and poverty. Poverty with inadequate housing and food leads to more sickness. The final result is dependency.

WORKERS LOSE SIX BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY FROM SICKNESS

"The National Health Survey of the U. S. Public Health Service tells us that approximately six billion dollars of persons each day are unable to go about their normal routines. Millions are ill and that the financial losses in income to them are unable to work because of sickness is about one billion of dollars yearly. These facts present two aspects of the seriousness of illness.

"As we consider and analyze this problem of health from the standpoint of approach of industry, schools, the medical profession and of future citizens, we become deeply impressed with the urgent need of making plans and provisions to assure better health for all. It is not a problem to be delegated to any one group, but the best thought of these groups concerned should be enlisted.

EXTEND WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

"We need to think through a plan for health in national terms. Our life is organized within a nation. Health and this essential to life should follow the same lines. We need to find ways to make adequate medical services available to all income groups.

"Probably the first provision in a national health program is the extension of the work and activities of the Public Health Service, adding to its preventive and research functions the responsibility for the adequacy of local health facilities and planning for improvements. We are accustomed to look to government to take care of the medical problems that entail social responsibility and action.

NEEDED MORE HOSPITALS

"Second, more hospital facilities of every locality should be brought up to adequate standards. These hospitals would then become medical centers which would make possible better professional service. Experts tell us present hospitals are inadequate with special deficiencies in rural areas and low-income States. Again government should assume the main responsibility in this field.

"Provisions to eliminate such deficiencies would draw all who our need to find employment for approximately 11 millions of persons. As program of hospital construction or modernization should be planned to extend over a number of years, and could well serve as a stabilizing force to counteract fluctuations in private construction and general business activity. Federal grants-in-aid would be granted to maintain such a hospital program.

MATERNAL, CHILD HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE URGED

"In the third place, Labor would like to see expansion of the program for maternal and child welfare services. We believe that medical services given in the early years of life are indispensable to the best physical and mental development. Of our citizens and that economic status should not deprive any child of necessary aids to proper development.

"At least one-half of our families cannot budget for medical care for the care of children, before, during, and after childbirth. The right of every child to be accorded the highest and best care in the first year lies at the heart of national well-being and has been accepted in principle by our Government.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

"Let us turn now to those families who are self-supporting and who are able to live decently and independently. These families constitute what are generally called the common people. This is the great productive force of the Nation and its health is essential to it in performing their work and for sustaining living.

"Health and self-dependence are closely interrelated. Health must be maintained in addition to medical care for specific classifications of illness.

"Medical services for minor types of illness prevent major afflictions, but adequate medical care is too costly to be included in the budgets of small income groups. The masses of individuals cannot take care of their own needs and the cost of current income.

"Families with incomes between $2,000 and $5,000 may be able to meet the ordinary demands of life and possess some dental service, and the less expensive operations, but when they face illness or a minor illness or operation will mean bankruptcy to families with incomes between $1,000 and $2,000.

"In the most prosperous year of our Nation's history 87 per cent of all families had incomes under $2,000. Medical care is a luxury that has been increasingly going without necessaries or incurring debt because the ability of low income families to pay: 87 per cent of family incomes fall between $1,000 and $2,000; 10 per cent are under $1,000 and 3.4 per cent are between $2,000 and $5,000; and 3.6 per cent are above $5,000. These figures demonstrate of what wide concern is a national health program.

PUBLIC MEDICAL SERVICE NECESSARY FOR MANY

"Obviously, families with incomes under $1,000 must have little medical care which is not provided as a public service. Between $1,000 and $5,000 income families can assume increasing degrees of responsibility for increasing rate. For these families the insurance principle of policy risks and group organization with contributions basis to pay costs. To accomplish our purposes—health and medical care which provisions must be compulsory and under democratic control.

COMPENSATION FOR TIME LOST DURING SICKNESS SUGGESTED

"I would like to submit to you a practical proposal for the extension of the compliance of no new principles but builds on principles well established. Under workmen's compensation legislation now existing in all but two may be enforced as under Federal jurisdiction, provision is made for compensation for loss of wages during time as well as for medical care for injuries received in the course of employment. Many of these laws provide for a coverage of occupational diseases but because of the recognized difficulty of distinguishing occupational diseases from other forms and types of illness, they have not been enforced so the application of compensation insurance has been steadily widened in the health field.

"By amending compensation laws to provide compensation for loss of time and hospital and medical services for workers and their families during sickness, we would make available the best way in providing better medical care for all.

"Compensation for accidents and occupational diseases has been the recognizability of industry, but the extension which I propose involves different elements. Workers have a responsibility for their own medical bills for general health and especially for medical services for themselves and their families. Therefore, it is my opinion that workers should also contribute to such health funds. Undoubtedly, additional funds would be required to provide adequate services, which should be supplied by Federal grants-in-aid. Such grants would strengthen State compensation laws, make for uniformity of provisions, and better administration.

"Under compensation law the principle of free choice of physicians is established, so no regimentation of the medical profession is involved. That profession would benefit as well as workers and their families."

EDITORIALS

Power of Labor Standards Act Administrator

Although the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 prescribes that the section fixing a minimum wage of not less than twenty-five cents an hour and a maximum work week of not more than forty-four hours for employes in those industries coming under its jurisdiction shall not be effective until 120 days after the Act was signed by President Roosevelt on June 24, there is no such limitation on the sections outlining the functions of the Administrator of the Act, whose authority begins as soon as he takes the oath of office. In view of the fact that the President has appointed Elmer F. Andrews, Industrial Commissioner of New York State, to be the Administrator, it is, therefore, instructive to outline the major functions he is required to perform.

In brief, the Administrator can:

Determine what industries subject to the Act.

Appoint an industry committee for each industry. The committee, whose function is to recommend to the Administrator the highest minimum wage figure which it believes will not substantially curtail employment, shall include "a number of disinterested persons representing the public, one of whom the Administrator shall designate as chairman, a like number of persons representing employes in the industry, and a like number of persons representing employers in the industry."

Approve or disapprove the wage rates recommended by the industry committees.

In case of disapproval of the rates recommended by an industry committee, appoint another committee to make a second survey and submit recommendations.

Decide what classes of employers are exempt from the Act because they are engaged in "executive, administrative, professional, or local retailing capacities, or as outside salesmen."

Issue regulations governing the employment of apprentices, learners, and physically or mentally handicapped persons at wages below the applicable minimum.

Decide what constitutes "seasonal" industries which are exempted by the Act from the ordinary maximum hour requirements for no more than 14 weeks.

Make inquiries relative to working conditions in establishments coming under the Act to determine compliance with its provisions.

Require the maintenance by employers of such records as are considered essential for enforcement.

Initiate court enforcement proceedings in the United States Courts.

The text of the Act stipulates that the minimum wage rate shall be 25 cents an hour for the first year, 30 cents an hour for the second year with the minimum of 40 cents an hour to be reached by at least the end of the seventh year. It seems to be clear, however, from a close reading of the text that neither the industry committees, which may be appointed immediately, nor the Administrator are limited to any minimum below the 40 cents an hour. That is to say, although the law establishes a minimum of 25 cents an hour for the first year, the Administrator can order that minimum to be 26 or 40 cents an hour at any time during the first year or thereafter if the industry committee of any industry, "having due regard to economic and competitive conditions," recommends that it be established without a substantial curtailment of employment in the industry.

The most important enforcement provision is the power to increase minimum wage rates to the 40 cent limit long before the end of seven years stipulated by the provision of the Act is affirmed by the United States News, edited by David Lawrence, which says: "The labor bloc in Congress for his appointment to legislation benefitting working men and women. In a question-and-answer analysis of the functions of the Administrator in this connection the United States News says:

"Does all this mean that the Administrator may move at once to establish a minimum wage standard above 25 cents an hour and up to 40 cents an hour?

"Indeed it does. No limitation other than that of formal procedure, and consideration of the recommendations, is placed upon the speed with which the 40-cent level might be reached."

It will be recalled that the American Federation of Labor Wages and Hours Bill definitely declared that twenty-five cents an hour should be the irreducible minimum wage of 40 cents an hour. Evidently the authority of the Administrator of the Act makes it possible to realize this minimum long before the end of the seven-year period set forth in the Act itself.

Labor omnia vincit!

Minimum Wage Orders Under Public Contracts Act

The hearings called by Acting Secretary of Labor Charles W. McLaughlin to determine minimum wage rates for employes of 60 cent of the manufacturing steel products for sale to the Government aroused an interest in the minimum wage orders already issued by the Labor Department in connection with the Walsh-Healey Act, which became effective on June 30, 1936. The orders are issued by the Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, on the recommendations made by the Public Contracts Division of the Labor Department.

The latest order, effective July 27, fixes minimum wage rates for the employes in the luggage industry at 40 cents an hour in the Northeast and far West and 37.5 cents an hour in the Midwest and South. The other industries for which minimum wage orders have been issued, together with the hourly rates established, are as follows:

Men's work clothing, 87½ cents; cotton garments, etc., 37½ cents; leather gloves, 40 cents; work gloves, 35 cents; canvas and jute industry 35 cents; men's neckwear, 50 cents; men's raincoats, 40 cents; men's hats and caps, 67½ cents; men's welt shoes, 40 cents; men's underwear, 35 cents in the Northeast, 32½ cents in the Southeast, 37½ cents in the Midwest, 42½ cents in the Northeast, 32½ cents in the South, 42½ cents in all other areas; handkerchief and mufflers, 40 cents; typewriter, 42½ cents; vitreous or vitrified china, 42½ cents; flint glass, 42½ cents.

In addition, seven of these industries have been given special tolerances for learners, for handicapped workers, and for seasonal industries. The decision of the Act authorizing the Secretary of Labor to make "reasonable limitations" with respect to the application of the law to certain groups of workers of which these are typical.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the Washington Review, official publication of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, informs its members that "concerns obtaining Government contracts subject to the Walsh-Healey Act will have to pay the minimum wages prescribed under that statute whether those rates are higher than the statutory minimum wage under the Wage-Hour Act," effective next October 24, which starts off with a minimum wage of 25 cents an hour for the first year of its operation.

Public Ownership of Power Plants

The allocation of $9,527,995 for 21 public light and power plants by Public Works Administrator Harold L. Ickes will undoubtedly stimulate the tendency of municipalities to produce light and power for their citizens without the element of profit which is the motivating influence in privately owned plants. Ickes has made it plain that municipal authorities and local authorities must comply with the Administration's power policy, which, according to Mr. Ickes, means that before municipalities set up their publicly owned plants the ability of low income groups to pay their share of the purchase upon "reasonable terms and conditions" the privately owned plants to which the publicly owned plants would necessarily compete if the two systems operated in the same territory.

The additional announcement by Mr. Ickes that he will have full discretionary authority in determining what kind of fair purchase price has been made is a guarantee that the owners of private light and power plants will receive a just price from the municipalities for all plants acquired. Of course officers of companies who deliberately inflate the "value" of the plants by "write-ups" and similar holding company practices must not expect that their estimates will be taken at face value by the Administrator and the Federal Government, which Mr. Ickes represents in these municipal power plant transactions, has a well-established reputation for dealing justly with property owners whose property is acquired for direct Federal Government purposes or in connection with local activities in which the Federal Government has a stake. Of course, the spirit of justice will characterize the transactions of Mr. Ickes in connection with the purchase of private power plants by municipal authorities with the assistance of Federal funds.

Of the $9,527,995 allocated by Mr. Ickes, $2,698,000 will be loans to conform to the requirements prescribed by Mr. Ickes, $2,698,000 will be loans and $6,829,995 in "grants," a term used to indicate a gift from the Government to the interested municipality. The benefits of cheap electric light and power available to the largest possible number of people.

The announcement of the new municipal plants will provide direct employment for many workers who would otherwise be compelled to live in the jobless army. In addition, many more of the jobless will obtain work in the industries which supplies necessary for the construction and operation of the public plants.

Workers' Problems Discussed by Labor Institute at Upholsterers' Convention

Fair Labor Standards Act Analyzed by Associate Solicitor Poole of Labor Department; Unemployment Compensation Considered; Union Joins Workers' Education Bureau.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

One of the outstanding features of the recent special convention of the Upholsterers International Union of North America, held at Cincinnati, Ohio, was a special Labor Institute set up in cooperation with the Workers' Education Bureau. The sessions of the Institute, which was held at the Hotel Sinton, were devoted to discussions of the socalled Wages and Hours Bill (the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938) and unemployment compensation.

Rufus G. Poole, Associate Solicitor of the U. S. Department of Labor and one of the advisers in the drafting of the Fair Labor Standards Act, stated that the Administration was the first public discussion of the Act, to the best of his knowledge, since it had been signed by the President of the United States on the previous Saturday. The Act, he said, will go into effect on the 24th of October, although some parts of it will begin almost immediately.

Wage Act Summarized

In his analysis of the act Mr. Poole pointed out the history of the social, economic, and legal principles, the range of its application, the administrative provisions, and particularly, the unique device of industrial committees composed of representatives of industry, labor, and of the public. Minimum wages are to be 25 cents an hour to begin with and go up an hour over a period of eight years, whereas hours are to be reduced from 44 to 40.

Mr. Poole also outlined something of the powers of subpoena which will be in the hands of the administrator and deputies. He summarized and explained the provisions for the review of decisions before the Circuit Court of Appeals, the powers of investigation, the protection of child labor, and the provisions for apprentices and handicapped workers, provisions pertaining to the exclusion of goods made in violation of the law from interstate commerce under penalty of the law. He also outlined the proposal for injunction proceedings to stay the shipment of such goods.

That the law, said Mr. Poole, is a bold attempt to deal with the wage problem on a national basis. It is a law with both an economic and a social objective, in that it seeks to eliminate child labor as well as to lift purchasing power.

Status of Unemployment Compensation

Mr. Fahnestock, Regional Director of the Social Security Board, pointed out the fact that there are 61 unemployment compensation acts, one in each of the forty-eight States in the territories. He outlined some of the provisions of the various laws, with particular reference to the status of strikers who quit work voluntarily. He also enumerated some of the provisions which old age assistance and stressed the importance to labor of securing its rights under the act and preventing legislators from amending the act by increasing box office.

J. A. Smith of the Unemployment Compensation Commission of Ohio who followed, briefly outlined the Ohio act and stressed the fact that it provided that a man who quit work voluntarily would have to go to work before he could and reduce his benefit period by a proportion.

At the conclusion of this address Spencer Miller, Jr., Director of the Workers' Education Bureau, announced the Institute and offered the cooperation of the Bureau in the development of a more extensive educational program of the Upholsterers' International Union. The delegates by unanimous vote voiced its approval of the Workers Education Bureau.

Grain Processors Council Urges Strong Fight On Post Company, Anti-Union Cereal Firm

President Meyer L. Lewis Says Battle Creek Concern "Is Doing Everything Possible to Defeat Every Effort Made by the Union to Organize the Workers and Establish a Contractual Relationship in the Interest of the Employes."

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Meyer L. Lewis, president of the National Council of Grain Processors, an American Federation of Labor affiliate, made public today a statement urging organized labor to support the struggle to continue a militant fight to persuade the Post Company, of Battle Creek, Mich., to cease its hostility to the organization of its employes.

Following is the text of Mr. Lewis's letter:

"To All Members of Organized Labor and Friends:

"The Post Company of Battle Creek, Michigan, manufacturing Post Toasties, Foods Corporation, manufacturing Post Grape Nuts Flakes, Instant Postum, Cake Flour, Calumet Baking Powder, Jell-O Desserts, Post Bran Flakes, Post Grape Nuts, Grape Nuts Flakes, Postum 400, Bran Flakes, Instant Postum, Post Toasties, Raisin Bran, Post Toasties, Jello, Certo, Lafrance, and Huskies, are not fair to labor.

"They have been placed on the unfair list by the Metal Trades Council, of the National Council of Grain Processors, and by the Bakery and Confectionery Labor, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"This powerful corporation is doing everything possible to defeat every effort made by the union to organize the workers and establish a contractual relationship in the interest of the employes.

"We have all been very kind in supporting our fight against this company, and appeal to you through the millions of dollars of union earned money to continue to give us the cooperation that will bring the General Foods Corporation to the realization that organized labor cannot be defeated.

"We ask you to do the following:

"1. Reaffirm your action.

"2. Request your members to observe this unfair list faithfully.

"3. Write to H. W. Brown, General Manager, Post Company, Battle Creek, Michigan, telling him that you are continuing to support the workers in Local 2997 of Battle Creek.

"4. Notify all retail and wholesale grocers particularly all organized Retail Grocery Clerks that you are buying W. K. Kellogg, Kalamazoo, and General Mills products and are not buying General Foods or Post products.

"Won't you help us? We want one successful fight against the General Foods Corporation.

"Fraternally yours,

"MEYER L. LEWIS,
"President, National Council of Grain Processors."

MINIMUM WAGES FIXED FOR LUGGAGE INDUSTRY

Acting Secretary of Labor McLaughlin Establishes 40 Cents an Hour, or $16 Per Week, in Northeast and Far West Sections, and 37½ Cents, or $15 Per Week in Midwest and South.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Following a thorough inquiry by the Public Contracts Board, Acting Secretary of Labor C. V. McLaughlin issued an order fixing minimum wage schedules for employes of concerns manufacturing luggage for sale to the Government.

In accordance with the recommendation of the board, Mr. McLaughlin's order decreed that the minimum wage for employes engaged in the performance of contracts with the Government of the United States Government subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Act for the manufacture or supply of luggage, including mail satchels or pouches, shall be not less than $16.00 per week of 40 hours, arrived at either upon the basis of an hourly rate for the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and 37.5 cents an hour, or $15.00 per week of 40 hours, for the States named at a time or place work basis, for the other 26 States and the District of Columbia. The order added that "this determination shall be effective and the minimum wage herein established shall apply to all such contracts, bids for which are solicited on or after July 27, 1938."

The order said that "the luggage industry, for the purpose of this decision, is defined as that industry which is engaged principally in the manufacture of trunks, suitcases, bags, brief cases, hat boxes and other similar containers for use of the material from which they are made."

In its inquiry the Public Contracts Board found that in New York the prevailing rates for men were $1.00 per hour and $.40 per hour for unskilled workers during the period of the Government investment and that the same minimum rates prevailed in Philadelphia without distinction as to the time of employment. In Petersburg, Va., the minimum rates were from $9 to $5 per week, while in Chicago it is $7.5 cents. At two Wisconsin points within a short distance of Chicago the minimum rate was found to be 36 cents for men and 40 cents for women. The higher minimum was explained by the fact that the workers in these near-Chicago plants produce only the highest type of goods. On the West Coast the board found that the minimum wage is not less than the New York minimum.

SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA PROBE BEGINS AUGUST 11

Communists, Fascists and Nazi Groups Will Be Investigated By Dies Committee of 7 Congressmen.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Representative Martin Dies, of Texas, chairman of the House Committee of seven members to investigate "un-American propaganda and activities," announced that the committee would begin hearings here August 11.

According to the House resolution setting up the committee it has for its purpose an investigation of the following subjects:

"1. The extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States.

"2. The diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and which attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution.

"3. All other questions in relation thereto that will aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation."

The Dies disclosures operated by secret agents of Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin and Mussolini in Italy are not specifically named in the resolution, but according to Representative Dies a thorough investigation of the Communist and Communist movements is the aim of the probe. When the House of Representatives adopted the resolution, he said:

"Both Communism and Nazi-ism and Fascism as having one underlying principle—dictatorship—the theory that government should have the right to control the lives and the fortunes of the people in the beliefs and every detail of the life of the human being, and that the duty and right of the government, rather than the American conception that the individual should be the master of mankind."

Before announcing the beginning of the investigation Congressman Dies said representatives of patriotic, labor, fraternal and civic organizations will be asked to present any pertinent information they may have in the first few days. The following persons have been named as members of the committee: John W. Pyne, president of the Mental Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor; Samuel Dickstein, director of the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion; Victor B. Devereaux, director of the National Americanism Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Walter S. Steele, of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, and Howard Martin, editor of the Automobile Workers' Union, C. I. O. affiliate.

"Serious charges have been made that certain groups are engaged in activities that threaten our American system of political and social life," Mr. Dies said in commenting on the scope of the hearings. "If charges are proved false, the groups involved will be absolved. If charges are proved true, the committee will recommend remedial legislation."

In addition to Chairman Dies, the committee consists of the following Representatives: Arthur D. Healey, Massachusetts; John J. Dempsey, New Mexico; Joe Starnes, Alabama; Harold G. Mosier, Ohio; Noah M. Mason, Illinois; and J. Parnell Thomas, New Jersey.

(From July 16 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement)

Andrews Is Chief Of Wage-Hour Law

Roosevelt's Appointee Has Been New York Industrial Commissioner For Five Years; Is Equipped With Broad Experience in Wages and Hours Problems.

Washington, D. C.—The appointment by President Roosevelt of Elmer F. Andrews, Industrial Commissioner of New York State, to be Administrator of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, popularly known as the Wages and Hours Act," places the important functions set forth in that measure in the hands of a man well-equipped by experience to handle the many problems connected with a law which establishes a floor below which wages in interstate industry cannot sink and a ceiling beyond which the length of the work week cannot rise.

Mr. Andrews was Deputy Industrial Commissioner of New York State when Miss Frances Perkins was Industrial Commissioner, from 1929 to 1933, and became head of the State Labor Department when President Roosevelt appointed Miss Perkins to the position of Secretary of Labor.

A native of New York, Mr. Andrews is 46 years old and lives with his wife and three children at Flushing. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1915, and in the next few years built railroads in Alaska and New York, worked for compensation-rating groups and piloted army planes overseas during the World War. In the intervening years he has been with the N. Y. State Labor Department as head of the personnel crew from 1600 to 1,900.

He also served as a labor adviser for the National Labor Board in the coal mining districts of Alabama, Kentucky and Pennsylvania in 1933 and 1934. President Roosevelt sent him to Geneva, Switzerland, as head of the American observers at the International Labor Conference. As the result of his report, the United States Government became a member of the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations.

An Industrial Commissioner of New York, Mr. Andrews was largely responsible for that State's Minimum Wage Law for women, extension of unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation.

THE DYNAMITER'S JOB DRAMATIZED BY RADIO

Blasting Feats in Building Tunnels and Dams Will Be Broadcast in "Americans at Work" Program Over Columbia Network August 4.

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS).—The Columbia Broadcasting System announced that the work of the "Dynamiter," whose dangerous blasting makes it possible to build our tunnels, dams and countries other huge engineering feats, will be dramatized in "Americans at Work" in its broadcast over the Columbia network Thursday, August 4, 10:30 to 11:00 P. M., EDST.

Two of the most skilled authorities in the country, on large dynamite shots, Sam Russell and J. W. Koster, du Pont technical experts, will participate in Columbia's New York studios in the first half of the program, describing in highlights in their colorful careers will be dramatized at work.

The second fifteen minutes will be broadcast from a tunnel construction job in New York City. Actual blasting will hear dynamite charges being exploded, as the CBS announcer describes the dynamiter actually at work.

Probably the most extraordinary blasting job Russell ever did was at the dam constructed over the Saguenay River at Chutes a Caron, in the province of Quebec. This incident will be one of those dramatized during the broadcast.

The stream at Chutes a Caron was so swift that construction in the river was impossible. Upon Russell's advice, the engineers built in the form of two concrete obelisk straight up in the air 92 feet high, 46 feet wide and 40 feet thick. The side facing the river was molded to a profile of the river bed.

Mathematics came Russell's job to calculate the amount of dynamite needed to blow off the top over 1,000 tons of concrete into the river without damaging it. The calculations were perfect, and the dam settled neatly into the river bed.

"Americans at Work" is one of the adult education series which the Columbia Broadcasting System is presenting under the guidance of the CBS Adult Education Board, of which Alfred Bryson, professor of education at Teachers College, Columbia University, is chairman, and of which Spencer Miller, Jr., director of the Workers Education Bureau, is a member.

UNUSUAL RELIEF FUND FRAUD IS UNCOVERED

Brooklyn, N. Y. (AFLWNS).—One of the most unusual frauds on the New York City relief rolls has been revealed here in a case reported to Magistrate Rudolph Lorenz by Meyer Meyers, special investigator of the Department of Welfare.

Mr. Meyers testified that on December 19, 1936, a woman had been placed on home relief on her assertion that she had no means of support. From that date to April 15, 1938, she received $1,000 from home relief funds. According to Meyers's report, however, the woman had $25,442 in nine banks while she was receiving home relief. He also testified that in addition to the $25,442 she possessed the woman had a bank account totaling $9,114 under the name of a daughter, whom he had been unable to locate.